Subsidy on High Speed Diesel

3322. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that subsidy on High Speed Diesel (HSD) has increased from Rs. 2180 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 8340 crores in 1996-97; and

(b) what is the estimated subsidy for HSD in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The estimated subsidy on diesel has increased from Rs. 2180 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 8090 crores in 1996-97.

(b) Government announced a comprehensive package on September 1, 1997 to contain the rising deficit in the oil pool account. The Government also decided that henceforth the prices of HSD would be fixed on import parity basis.

Environment Management Programme of Mathura Refinery

3323. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mathura Refinery has initiated programme to contain pollution;

(b) if so, the details of environment management programme undertaken there; and

(c) the results of corrective measures on emissions of sulphur dioxide from the refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Several steps have been taken in Mathura Refinery right from inception to control pollution. These included elaborate 3 stage physical, chemical and biological treatment for liqid effluents, use of low sulphur fuel, tall stacks for better dispersion of gaseous effluents and provision of Sulphur Recovery Unit (SRU) to reduce SO2 emissions. Subsequently various energy conservation (ENCON) measures have been implemented and new facilities have been added like use of natural gas, Chemo-Bio Chemical process for treatment of SRU tail gas etc. In addition, a hydrocracker plant project is under implementation which will further reduce emmission of SO2 from the refinery.

(c) With the measures taken at Mathura Refinery the SO2 emmission has been brought to a level of 380 kg/hr. from the original prescribed level of 1000 kg/hr. in summmer and 700 kg/hr. in winter.

Suspension and Revival of LPG Distributorship

3324. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of LPG distributors of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi which were suspended/issue suspension letters during the last three years and revived thereafter;

(b) the reasons for suspension and revival thereof;

(c) the details of distributors in the above cities which were penalised by way of closing their subscription vouchers, imposing penalties, etc.; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against such distributors to avoid the probable offences/irregularities by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) During the last three years i.e. 1995-96 to 1997-98, five LPG distributorships in Punjab and four LPG distributorships in Delhi were suspended, as a measure of